

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A chewing gum composition for removing stains from dental surfaces comprising a gum base and a stain removing effective amount of at least two stain removing components selected from a peroxide compound, a polyphosphate, and an anionic surfactant, said stain removing components not being mixed directly with the gum base and therefore are not materially bound to the gum base ~~said composition further comprising an orally acceptable carrier with the proviso that the composition is not a confectionery composition containing all three stain removing components.~~

Claim 2 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxide compound is selected from the group consisting of carbamide peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, calcium peroxide, sodium peroxide, strontium peroxide, zinc peroxide, magnesium peroxide and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyphosphate is selected from the group consisting of tripolyphosphates, tetrapolyphosphates, pyrophosphates, hexametaphosphates and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The composition of claim 3 wherein the polyphosphate is selected from the group consisting of water soluble alkali metal polyphosphates.

Claim 5 (original): The composition of claim 4 wherein the polyphosphate is selected from the group consisting of sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, sodium acid pyrophosphate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyphosphate is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 6 wherein the polyphosphate is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 3% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 8 (original): The composition of claim 7 wherein the polyphosphate is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 1.0% to 3% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 9 (original): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters and salts, sodium and potassium salts of stearate and palmitate and methyl and ethyl esters thereof, sodium oleate, salts of fumaric acid, potassium glomate, organic acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, stearyl monoglyceridyl citrate, succistearin, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, glycerol tristearate, lecithin,

hydroxylated lecithin, sodium lauryl sulfate, acetylated monoglycerides, succinylated monoglycerides, monoglyceride citrate, ethoxylated mono- and diglycerides, sorbitan monostearate, calcium stearyl-2-lactylate, sodium stearyl lactylate, lactylated fatty acid esters of glycerol and propylene glycerol, glycerol-lactoesters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, propylene glycol alginate, sucrose C₈-C₂₄ fatty acid esters, diacetyl tartaric and citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, triacetin, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters and salts, sodium and potassium stearate and palmitate, organic acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, ethoxylated mono- and diglycerides, lactylated fatty acid esters of glycerol and propylene glycerol, glycerol-lactoesters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, sucrose C₈-C₂₄ fatty acid esters, diacetyl tartaric and citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium stearate, potassium stearate, sodium palmitate, potassium palmitate, sodium oleate, glycerol stearate, glycerol lactate, glycerol stearate lactate, sucrose monostearate, sucrose distearate, sucrose monolaurate, sucrose dilaurate, polyglycerol esters of monostearate, polyglycerol

esters of monolaurate, glycerol-lactoesters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, sucrose C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acid esters, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (original): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium stearate, sodium palmitate, citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, lactic acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a chewing gum, said anionic surfactant being present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 2.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 14 (original): The composition of claim 13 wherein the amount of the anionic surfactant is from about 0.4% to 1.2% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 15 and 16 (withdrawn).

Claim 17 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of chewing gums, centerfill confections, nougats, candies, panning goods, gel confections, fondants, lozenges, hard boiled candies, mints, troches, pastilles, microcapsules, cakes, wafers, thin films, tablets and compressed tablets.

Claims 18 and 19 (withdrawn).

Claim 20 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxide compound is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (original): The composition of claim 20 wherein the peroxide compound is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 22 (original): The composition of claim 21 wherein the peroxide compound is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.2% to 3% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 23 (original): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a chewing gum, wherein:

the peroxide compound is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and

the polyphosphate is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 24 (original): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a chewing gum, wherein:

the peroxide compound is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and

the anionic surfactant is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 2.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 25 (original): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a chewing gum, wherein:

the polyphosphate is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and

the anionic surfactant is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 2.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 26 – 28 (withdrawn).

Claim 29 (original): The composition of claim 1 further comprising an encapsulating substance for encapsulating the peroxide compound within the composition.

Claim 30 (original): The composition of claim 29 wherein the encapsulating substance is selected from the group consisting of natural gums, synthetic gums,

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edible oils, polymers, olefin copolymers, resins, waxes, mineral oils, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 31 (original): The composition of claim 1, wherein the orally acceptable carrier is a solid carrier.

Claim 32 (cancel without prejudice).

Claim 33 (original): A method of removing stains from dental surfaces comprising administering a stain removing effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to the oral cavity of a warm-blooded animal including humans for contact with the dental surfaces thereof.

Claim 34 (cancel without prejudice)

Claim 35 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1 containing a polyphosphate and an anionic surfactant as stain removing agents.

Claim 36 (withdrawn).

Claim 37 and 38 (cancel without prejudice).

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Claim 39 (new): The chewing gum composition of claim 1 further comprising a coating.

Claim 40 (new): The chewing gum composition of claim 39 wherein the stain removing components are at least in the coating.